

# The Trinity Tripod

-ESTABLISHED 1904-

Now then-Trinity!

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

Volume CXVI  
Number VI

## Faculty Meeting

KAT NAMON '22  
MANAGING EDITOR

The faculty meeting last week included motions addressing academics and the future of remote courses in the spring semester.

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## CHER Update

OLIVIA PAPP '23  
FEATURES EDITOR

Professor Abigail Williamson speaks on the latest CHER (Center for Hartford Engagement and Research) developments during the pandemic.

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## Chalamet: Ranked

KAT NAMON '22  
MANAGING EDITOR

*Tripod* Managing Editor Kat Namon gives you the ranked list of Timothee Chalamet films you didn't know you needed.

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## The Wage Gap

MATEO VAZQUEZ '21  
SPORTS EDITOR

The *Tripod* examines the contentious wage gap between the NBA and WNBA.

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### To Our Readers:

Keep your eye out for the *Tripod's* Sunday morning feature series on issues of importance and interest to the Trinity community. Check it out on Instagram or our website, [trinitytripod.com](https://trinitytripod.com).

This week, the *Tripod* turns the lens on itself, and examines its history as the only campus weekly since 1904.

## COVID Cases Drop to 18 as Outbreak Abates; In-Person Instruction to Resume Wednesday

KIP LYNCH '22  
NEWS EDITOR

In an email sent to the Trinity community Monday, Oct. 19, Chief of Staff and Assistant Vice President for External Affairs Jason Rojas announced that Trinity's COVID active case count had dropped to 18, down from 32 on Friday, Oct. 16. Of the 18 active cases, one is an employee/affiliate while 17 are students. Of those 17 students, nine are currently isolated on campus. The employee/affiliate is a non-teaching staff member who had little contact with others on campus, according to Rojas.

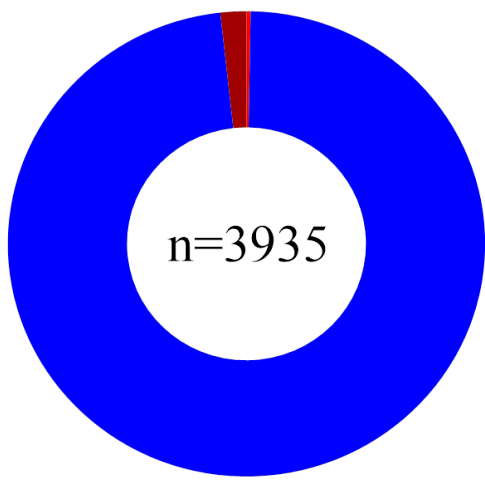
Rojas indicated that the College will resume in-person classes and open the library as well as the Ferris Athletic Center on Wednesday, Oct. 21. Additionally, employees approved to work on campus will be allowed to return and organized groups limi-

ted to 12 students will be able to meet if supervised by a member of the faculty or staff. Students will be allowed to gather outside so long as the groups do not number more than six, with face coverings required except when eating. With the decrease in active cases, the College changed its alert level status to yellow Monday evening.

Rojas responded over the weekend to the *Tripod's* three previous requests from Oct. 11, 15, and 16. After being alerted to an increase in cases surpassing the capacity of Doonesbury Residential Community, the College's primary and only explicitly dedicated isolation facility the *Tripod* also learned that infected students were being placed in dorms on the same floor as non-infected students, and asked Rojas to identify any

see DECLINE on page 3

### Test Results: Week of Oct. 12



- 0.28% Positive
- 97.97% Negative
- 1.75% Invalid

Examining the data available on Trinity's COVID-19 Dashboard, the College has reported that a total of 3,855 COVID-19 PCR tests have been completed between Oct. 12 and Oct. 19, with a total of 11 positive test results.

## College Reports Modest 3% Endowment Growth, Salaries Increase for Some Admins

DANIEL J. NESBITT '22  
MANAGING EDITOR

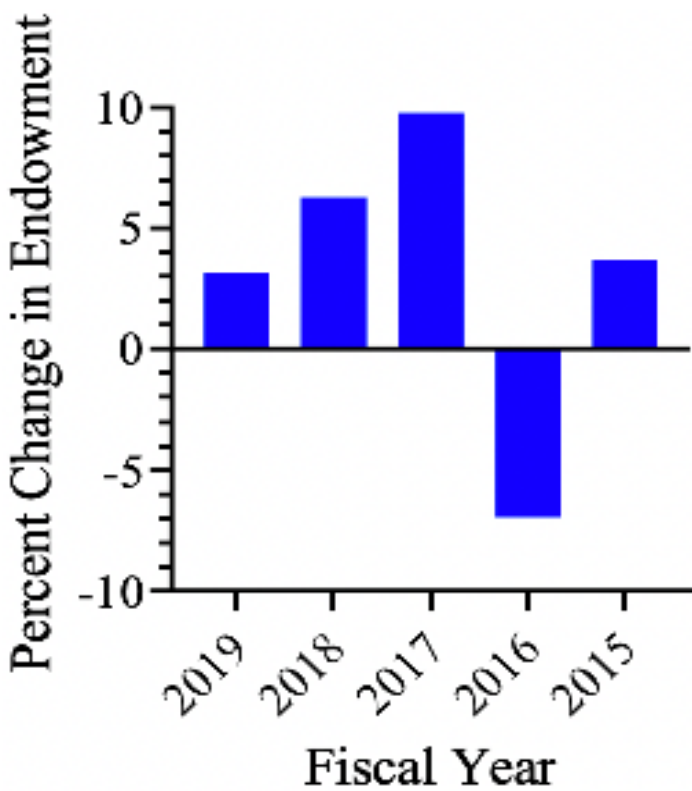
The *Tripod* conducted a brief review of Trinity's financials using the publicly available IRS Form 990, an IRS form filed by all tax-exempt non-profit organizations, and Trinity's Consolidated Financial Statements available on the college website.

The 990 data indicate that the College's endowment increased by approximately 3.16% for fiscal year (FY) 2019 (Note: FY 2019 spans from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019). The percent change in endowment for FY 2019-2015 is shown in the figure to the right. As shown in the figure, the 3.16% increase for FY 2019 is continuing a downward trend from FY 2017. It is worth noting that the percent change in endowment data was not adjusted for inflation. The

percent change in endowment peaked at 9.80% for FY 2017 and the minimum was a -6.94% change for FY 2016.

The 990 data also include the yearly total compensation for "officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees" of the College, including base compensation, bonuses, other reportable compensation, retirement and other deferred compensation, and nontaxable benefits. The total compensation of the listed individuals for FY 2019 and FY 2018 were calculated and corrected for inflation using an inflation calculator made available by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. President Berger-Sweeney's overall compensation increased 13.11% from \$744,735.75 to \$842,336 (2019 dollars).

see ENDOWMENT on page 4



Trinity's endowment showed a modest improvement in 2019, though the full impact of the COVID pandemic on giving and endowment totals will not be realized until 2020.

# The Trinity Tripod

Established in 1904  
“Now then- Trinity!”

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## Trinity College

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### CORRECTIONS

## Letter to the Editor: Alumnus

To the Editor:

This is an abridged version of a letter sent to President Berger-Sweeney on July 27 in response to her call for alumni participation in the establishment of a Task Force on Racial Climate. The unabridged letter is posted on the online edition of the *Tripod*.

Dear President  
Berger-Sweeney:

Thank you for your “Message of Hope and a Call to Act” in which you invite participation by interested members of the Trinity College Community in the creation of a Task Force on Campus Climate.

The years I spent at Trinity, from the autumn of 1967 until the spring of 1971, played a significant role in my intellectual development. Those were tumultuous years in the history of the college and the United States. Like many of my generation, I was politically radicalized during my college years. In my last year in Trinity--in the aftermath of the Kent State murders of May 1970--I became seriously involved in socialist politics. This became a life-long commitment. I have devoted my entire adult life to the struggle against American and global capitalism, which, in my view, is the essential cause of militarism (and its countless and never ending wars), economic exploitation, social inequality, poverty, and every form of discrimination (whether based on nationality, ethnicity, religion, or racial background).

My response to your letters is, therefore, that of a person who has been for a half century deeply engaged in socialist politics and thought. I respect your efforts to respond in a

thoughtful manner to the crisis that now confronts Trinity. But I disagree with the uncritical acceptance of a racialized narrative of America's past and present. The elevation of race into the central analytical category legitimizes the falsification of history, is incompatible with scientific thought, and obstructs the objective study of the real socio-economic sources of oppression and human suffering in the modern world.

The July 1 letter informs the Trinity College Community that the Board of Trustees has unanimously adopted a number of action steps, the first of which is the astonishing and deeply troubling requirement that “all campus members, all trustees, and all key volunteers ... complete anti-racist, unconscious bias, equity education in the fall.”

Aside from its intrusive inquiry into the innermost thoughts of individuals, the search for “unconscious bias” clears the path for the proscription and punishment of opinions opposed to “critical race theory” and race-based politics in general.

The “action step” expresses a broader tendency to allow ideologically motivated constructions to set the intellectual agenda for the college. The college has posted on its web site an “Antiracism Reading List.” The first item on the list is Ibram X. Kendi's “Stamped from the Beginning.” Among the insights to be found in this volume is the following explanation of the Enlightenment:

“For Enlightenment intellectuals, the metaphor of light typically had a double meaning. Europeans had rediscovered learning after a thousand years in religious darkness, and their bright continental beacon

of insight existed in the midst of a ‘dark’ world not yet touched by light. Light, then, became a metaphor for Europeanness, and therefore Whiteness, a notion that Benjamin Franklin and his philosophical society eagerly embraced and imported to the colonies.”

This is sheer nonsense. But would it be possible, amidst the demand that all members of the college community confess to “unconscious bias,” for a Trinity professor teaching Eighteenth Century philosophy to tell students that Kendi's effort to interpret the Enlightenment as a racist project, as a defense of “whiteness” against “blackness,” is intellectually worthless? Would such a statement lead the teacher to be indicted for offending a student, exhibiting racial insensitivity, etc.? Could it possibly cost the teacher his or her job?

The world is now passing through a crisis that can be compared in many respects to that which confronted humanity upon the outbreak of World War I. The complete incapacity of the United States to respond effectively and humanely to this pandemic is a devastating indictment of the economic, political, social, and, I might add, intellectual foundations of this society. There is a desperate need for a new epoch of intellectual “Aufklärung” [the word used by Kant], to which Trinity should strive to contribute. I have made these criticisms in the hope they might encourage a discussion of Trinity's future that is not dominated by, but rather opposes, a racist narrative.

Yours sincerely,

David W. Green '71

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# NEWS

## COVID Cases Fall to 18, Alert Level Lowered to Yellow

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other dedicated isolation facilities used by the College. He declined to identify, stating that “These facilities function as healthcare facilities and we feel it is best to not identify them in greater detail out of interest for affected students who have been or may be placed in isolation in the future. We have identified a significant number of potential isolation spaces as part of our contingency planning to manage needs that may arise.”

However, Dean of Campus Life & Vice President for Student Affairs Joe DiChristina previously identified these facilities in an email sent to the Trinity community five days prior on Oct. 12, stating that “these spaces are in Stowe, Clemens, and an exterior apartment connected to Vernon Place (all had been designated as isolation facilities during the pandemic last spring).” It remains unclear what other spaces, if any, have been identified by the College.

In response to Trinity’s decision to convert dorms with non-infected students into partial isolation wards without notice, Rojas indicated that the College’s “plan for re-opening was designed to be fluid given the unprecedented nature of operating a college during a pandemic. We assumed there would be COVID cases during the academic year. No one could predict how many cases we would have. As we respond to cases in real time, we make decisions and will continue to make decisions that are in the best interests of our entire campus community, including the needs of affected students themselves, and we will do so safely and with consultation from our health center professionals.”

While Rojas asserted the fluidity of the plan, DiChristina had previously described these facilities as “designated as isolation facilities during the pandemic

last spring,” months before the fall semester and prior to the distribution of the College’s “Community Contract.” The spring selection of these facilities was also confirmed in a separate email from Dean of Student Life Jody Goodman last week.

Rojas clarified that “students who are placed in isolation are not ‘intermingled’ with other students. If they are temporarily housed in the same building with other students, they are in spaces that have separate bathrooms and sometimes separate building entrances, and where appropriate ventilation exists.” Clemens and Stowe, however, do not have separate, exterior entrances to the dormitory floors in which infected students were housed last weekend.

On the enforcement of individual quarantines, Rojas stated the administration’s belief that “students have and are capable of using good judgment during these challenging times. Our experience in working with and caring for students who have contracted the virus is that they have been cooperative and understanding of the seriousness of the situation.”

Responding to student concerns about being exposed to the coronavirus by being placed in close proximity with infected students, concerns separately reported to Residential Life officials by student employees, Rojas stated “We respond to the needs of affected students whenever the needs arises. A nurse assists students during the isolation placement process. All appropriate mitigation processes are followed during placement and therefore risk of spread is reduced. The spaces in Stowe/Clemens are apartment-style units that are self-contained with dedicated bedrooms and bathrooms. There were 2 students that were placed in Clemens for 2 days to accommodate some specific needs. No students are currently isolating

in Clemens of [sic] Stowe.” Rojas further clarified that the College is not moving students residing off-campus into on-campus housing for quarantine.

The College also disclosed the members of its COVID-19 steering committee for the first time over the weekend. The committee consists of Rojas (co-chair), DiChristina (co-chair), Suzanne Aber, David Andres, Michael Casey, Brian Heavren, Dan Hitchell, Dickens Mathieu, Takunari Miyazaki, Mitchell Polin, and Angela Paik Schaeffer. Rojas noted that “The steering committee meets at least three times a week and is informed by reports from several divisions and data from the Broad Institute. It also consults regularly with President Berger-Sweeney and provides her with recommendations on major action steps aimed at managing our response to the virus, including decisions to change the campus alert level.”

Rojas did not indicate if a replacement selection has been made for the committee, given Vice President for Information Technology Suzanne Aber’s retirement this month.

After receiving confirmation last week from the management at Parkville Market, which several infected students visited, that their facility was not contact traced by Trinity, the *Tripod* separately investigated the College’s contact tracing policies and procedures as a continuance of an earlier investigation in mid-September.

Rojas provided a statement from Director of Health Services Martha O’Brien, who added that “Contact tracers make calls to all sites and people that are identified as a moderate or high-risk exposure based on information collected from interviews with the COVID positive individual. Our trained contact tracers act upon information provided by the infected individual and touch base each day with the

individual allowing for more information to be shared.”

During the week of Oct. 12, there was an increase of 35 cases, bringing the total to 56. Rojas noted that “Of the 35, all but 4 students demonstrated a direct correlation to a previously positive case through our work with contact tracing.” It remains unclear what number of students with direct contacts to a particular location, such as Parkville Market, would merit contact tracing by the College’s staff.

The *Tripod* also sought clarification on the factors behind the College’s decision to remain at alert level orange throughout the outbreak, among the largest in the state, despite the sustained increase in cases for almost two weeks. Rojas noted that the College evaluates “the situation daily and consider the specific context, not just a single data point. In this case, the fact that evidence shows these cases to be clusters—and that we have identified and contained them—is significant.”

“If we saw evidence that the virus was ‘everywhere’ on campus, we would recommend a different way forward,” he added.

On whether the College would take any action to regulate off-campus housing given that off-campus residents were the primary impetus of the recent outbreak, Rojas responded that “We will be looking comprehensively at patterns we see in the data from throughout the semester to inform our policies and practices in the future.”

Rojas characterized previous *Tripod* reporting on off-campus housing as a central problem in the recent outbreak as “misleading and inaccurate,” citing the previous “cluster of cases in a campus residence hall” in mid-September. However, Rojas himself asserted in an email to the community Saturday that the recent outbreak primarily affected “clusters of students

who live in off-campus housing” and suggested that the clusters “don’t appear to be diffusely spread across campus.” DiChristina, similarly, attributed the outbreak to mostly “students who live together in off-campus apartments/housing” on Oct. 8 at the start of the outbreak.

“The College,” Rojas noted, has “had an increased presence in residence halls and off campus. We have and will continue to follow-up with all students that have been in violation of COVID policies/expectations.” Despite this presence, Rojas concurrently acknowledged relative to off-campus residences that the College “cannot instruct the owners on how to operate their properties.”

The College does not plan to adjust its practices based on recent outbreaks. Rather, Rojas noted that the College works “continuously with Hartford Healthcare—they are our healthcare provider for students—to assess and inform our practices” and added that “those practices helped mitigate the spread of the virus over the past two weeks.”

As for changes to athletic practices, Rojas noted that the administration “will be making decisions in the coming days regarding athletic team activities and use of our facilities.” Rojas asserted that there is no evidence that “athletic practices, which were conducted under the supervision of coaching staff and followed all appropriate health and safety protocols, played a role in the recent cases.” Athletic practices were approved to resume Wednesday, with limited capacity restrictions, according to Monday’s email.

Further, Rojas noted that the “clusters of cases we have seen are not related specifically to Greek Letter Organizations.” The *Tripod* previously reported that Psi U was placed under quarantine earlier in the semester for a coronavirus cluster where as many as six members tested positive.

## College Campus Safety Report: Oct. 12-Oct. 19

Thursday, Oct. 15  
*Smith Hall*

Liquor Law Violation.  
5 students received disciplinary referrals.

Friday, Oct. 16  
*Doonesbury*

Vandalism - Property.  
This case remains open.

Sunday, Oct. 18  
*Summit Street*

Vehicle Vandalism.  
This case remains open.

Endowment Gains 3%

Faculty Consider Spring Semester

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Name	Title	Change in Total Compensation
Joanne Berger Sweeney	President	13.11%
Dickens Mathieu	General Counsel, Secretary of College	-0.61%
Danny Hitchell	VP Finance	0.60%
Timothy Cresswell	VP Academic Affairs	-4.04%
Suzanne Aber	VP Information Technology	-7.06%
Angel Perez	VP Enrollment & Student Success	5.68%
Joseph DiChristina	Dean of Campus Life, VP Student Affairs	-0.63%
Angela Schaeffer	VP Communications & Marketing	-8.35%
Sonia Cardenas	Acting Dean of Faculty	0.29%
Melanie Stein	Former Interim Dean of Faculty	3.35%

(Above) This table compares administrative salary changes, expressed as percentages, from FY 2018 to FY 2019. The changes are controlled for inflation.

Notably, Berger-Sweeney’s contract was renewed at the beginning of FY 2019, which could account for this increase. The compiled data for College officials’ total compensation, adjusted for inflation, listed in the Form 990 are shown in the table. VP of Advancement Michael Casey and Former VP of Advancement John Fracasso were excluded from the table due to odd timings in positional changes resulting in compensation changes exceeding +/- 60%. Additionally, Director of Human Resources (until Sep. 1, 2018) Beth Iacampo was not included as she was not listed on the 990 for FY 2018.

In addition, the Trinity College Consolidated Financial Statement for June 30, 2019 and 2018 showed significant changes in the allocation of Trinity’s investments. It is important to note that the numbers provided in this article are approximations – the full

data is available online at Trinity’s website. For 2019, Trinity College held \$35M in short-term investments compared to \$430M in 2018. Conversely, the College held \$60M in fixed income in 2019, but only \$3M in 2018. The College also had significantly more investment in domestic equity in 2019 (\$227M) than in 2018 (\$7.5M).

In private equity, Trinity College invested an additional \$16M, bringing the total amount of funds to \$165M. The College similarly invested an additional \$16M in real estate, bringing the total amount of funds to \$22M. Trinity greatly increased their stake in domestic equity hedge funds during the most recent reportable year, investing \$45M in 2019 compared to \$9M the previous year while decreasing their stake in private equity hedge funds from around \$374,000 to around \$2,900.

KAT NAMON ’22  
MANAGING EDITOR

This past Tuesday, Oct. 13, the faculty met to discuss two motions regarding the Spring 2021 semester, as well as Summer Session I. The Curriculum Committee introduced the first motion which moved that, effective for the Spring 2021 semester and Summer Session I, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, teaching classes in-person during these semesters “may not be advisable or possible for some faculty and students.”

The motion proposed that if courses are not offered or taken in-person, that the faculty would be able to “offer hybrid and remote courses for the entirety of the Spring 2021 semester and Summer 2021 Session I and the college temporarily lifts the prohibition against the inclusion of remote and hybrid courses to be counted toward the requirements for graduation.”

The motion was a precautionary move, taken in part because of the ever-changing situation posed by the global coronavirus outbreak, and does not determine presently which courses will be remote. The faculty approved similar measures for the Fall 2020 semester earlier this year after reaching agreement in June.

It further provides the faculty with more flexibility in determining how the

spring and summer semesters will proceed. The motion also included a proviso that the motion was adopted for “potential use only in the continuing COVID-19 emergency.” Students will also be allowed to continue to submit petitions to transfer credits from courses taken at consortium institutions as they were allowed to during this Fall 2020 semester.

The motion also clarified that in no case would all courses in this hybrid form intended to count for one full credit “consist of fewer than 39 hours of direct instruction.” Additionally, it required that the faculty ensure that students enrolled in a particular course “do not lack the resources required to complete the course.” Prior to voting to pass the motion, Professor and Chair of the Language Department Johannes Evelein voiced a procedural concern that included faculty governance and retention issues that the motion might pose. He stated that he senses that students “are greatly bothered by the fact that they find themselves in isolation on campus, and the prospect of this continuing in the spring and even Summer [Session] I is greatly concerning.” Evelein added that he worries that the ongoing situation could “be a serious retention issue in the spring” and questioned whether

the motion should also address Summer Session I.

Evelein also spoke to the language used in part D of the motion, which states that the motion would be implemented upon the continuation of the COVID-19 emergency. Evelein asked that if “the emergency is no longer an emergency, that the faculty would reconvene and pass a motion to annul the current motion?” In response to this question, Associate Dean of the Curriculum Committee Mitch Polin clarified that the motion allows for “the possibility of remote instruction, it is not mandating that there be remote instruction.” Polin also addressed Evelein’s first point raised about the timing of the motion, noting that “now to make those plans... I don’t know whether something miraculous were to happen that we would reconvene some time in the spring and shut down the remote courses, it seems unlikely.”

Acting Dean of the Faculty Sonia Cardenas also added more information on why the Spring 2021 semester and Summer Session I are both addressed under the motion, indicating that “it is important for those two to be grouped together for financial aid purposes, so we have to think of them for broader reasons jointly.”

The next faculty meeting is scheduled to be held next month on Tuesday, Nov. 10.

Intercollegiate Update: News on Nearby Campuses

Amherst College

On Saturday, Oct. 10, Amherst College Chief of Police John Carter announced to the Amherst community that “several small swastikas were found carved into a table at the Book and Plow Farm,” according to *The Amherst Student*.

The *Student* reported that Amherst has faced numerous similar incidents in the past. For example, in 2018, “members of the men’s lacrosse team drew a swastika on the face of an unconscious student at a party.” In addition, “members of the men’s lacrosse team repeatedly said the N-word outside a black teammate’s suite,” leading to a physical altercation just last spring in Mar. 2019.

In response, Amherst College President Biddy Martin described that “the decision to etch this symbol into the wood of a table at the farm is chilling. It is unconscionable and unforgivable.” Per the *Student*, Amherst College’s Police Department has yet to determine who is responsible for the act and has not taken any disciplinary action against any suspects.

Yale University

According to the *Yale Daily News*, “Yale University is being investigated by the Office for Civil Rights within the United States Department of Education for allegedly violating Title IX by running women-only programs at the Yale School of Management.”

The complaint, filed by University of Michigan, Flint economics professor Mark J. Perry alleged that the School of Management excludes men on the basis of sex from “applying for several executive education programs created solely for women.” Department of Education officials notified Perry that an investigation would be opened following his complaint on October 13. In an email to *Yale Daily News*, Perry stated that his “goal is to advance civil rights and Title IX for all (and not just some) in higher education expose [sic] the systemic sexism that is tolerated and promoted at hundreds of colleges and universities in the US.” Spokespersons for the School of Management have yet to comment on the investigation, which comes on the heels of a separate Title VI lawsuit.

Bates College

Former 2020 presidential candidate Senator Elizabeth Warren visited Lewiston, Maine for an outdoor Biden for Maine rally on Oct. 10, according to *The Bates Student*. Lewiston is in Maine’s 2nd congressional district, which was won by President Donald Trump in the 2016 presidential election.

Warren and the other speakers highlighted the importance of voting and volunteering ahead of the upcoming election. In addition to promoting the Biden/Harris campaign, Warren and the other speakers also endorsed Sara Gideon, currently Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives, in her electoral race against Susan Collins for a seat in the U.S. Senate.

Elizabeth Warren argued for political activism to hold President Trump and the White House accountable on the issue of climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, and his attempts to repeal Obamacare, “which would leave millions of Americans without healthcare including children under their parents’ coverage.” As Warren put it, “This election is life [or] death.”



# OPINION

## The Impact of Remote Learning on the Liberal Arts

LUCIUS BRYANT '22  
STAFF WRITER

At the end of my high school career, and the beginning of my college application process, I was tasked with determining the criteria I would consider ideal in my future place of education. I had not yet decided what I would devote my studies towards, but I had a feeling it would involve writing and the arts at some level. My advisor and I determined I would prosper most at a

sonal relationship with my professors and fellow students. It had been a popular choice among alumni of my high school, and carried a positive context when brought up in conversation. The reputation of the school made me look forward to what was to come.

For the most part, I feel satisfied with how the school has met these expectations. I can still mention I am a student at Trinity in conversation to illicit inquiries of possible acquaintances I had

come out of this semester, where the remote learning shoves a wrench in the intimacy of small classes and the rules of quar-

ing were ideal, I have a feeling we would be witnessing a stark contrast in behavior in the students than what we have

disciplines. Every school has its own version of this. Here, it is our General Education requirements. The upside to this system is the possibility to turn a student who is perhaps tunnel visioned on their path to becoming an engineer onto the writings of 20th century poets or the details of classical oil paintings and sculptures. Alas, no more than ever I have felt the pressure to focus on prioritizing the future when it comes to my education. The frustrations of quarantine have impacted both the patience required of students to be open to new ideas as well as of professors in order to expose these new ideas. There is less risk to be taken when the engineer

*“Trinity was top of the list...The school’s size would regulate average class numbers...It had been a popular choice...of my high school, and carried a positive context when brought up in conversation.”*

smaller college with an emphasis on liberal arts that was no farther than a short drive from home. Trinity was top of the list when it came to these criteria. The school’s size would regulate average class numbers, ensuring that I would have a more per-

made, or how the hockey team is performing, or if I had started any businesses with my peers; I still enjoy the implications of one day being a Trinity alum with my own stories.

Functionally, the school has let me down a bit. Most of the disappointment has

antine inhibit my ability to meet new people. On one hand, the pressure of being presentable at all times has been taken off my shoulders, while on the other I feel my self-discipline slipping as a result.

From what I have witnessed and inquired about from other students and faculty, I know this semester has been tough for most. It is clearly not everyone’s ideal situation, which is why I am skeptical when online learning is referred to as the future (mostly from those no longer associated with academia). If online learn-

seen thus far. I believe the students, if the pressure of being restrained to a single location was less severe, would make it a point to avoid social gatherings, and the number of

*“There is less risk to be taken when the engineer sticks to his physics lectures and the art student to their studios.”*

active cases would remain steady at a hopeful zero.

One of the perks of liberal arts is the necessity to take classes in several

sticks to his physics lectures and the art students to their studios. This is the unfortunate reality in which we currently exist.

## The State of Television in Today’s Challenged America

DANIEL POBLETE '23  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In March of 2005, American audiences were introduced to a cast of characters working at a mid-sized paper supply company with the NBC sitcom *The Office*. By the end of the first season, show creator Greg Daniels had found his voice. The show ran for 201 episodes before ending in 2013. This past summer Daniels and Steve Carrel-frontrunner of *The Office*-were expected to deliver

simply not in the mood to watch sitcoms anymore? Circa 2005 American audiences enjoyed shows like *Arrested Development*, *Community*, *Parks and Recreation*, and others. These shows were not devoid of any plot, but they all shared similar formats. Over the course of 30 minutes a story is introduced and developed with jokes spread throughout. The landscape of television is simply not the same. Television is now watched on computer screens hours

definitely different. The sitcoms I have mentioned are not only linked by their format, but tonally they are all on the same page. Yes, we care about the characters, but tonally they are all funny. As I said, laughter is not dead. The most popular shows on streaming services usually have hour long episodes. With this format, current shows have the ability to shift tonally throughout a single episode. Season three of *Stranger Things* is probably the best example of shifting tonally. The third season would spend time on the character of Nancy, dealing with sexism in the workplace than cut to a subplot about another character singing to his long-distance girlfriend with his friends present.

Other examples of this mix of comedy, suspense, and drama are *Succession* (HBO), *Barry* (HBO), *Sex Education* (Netflix), *The Boys* (Amazon Prime). My answer to the disappearance of the 30-minute sitcom is that our taste has matured. For whatever reason, American audienc-

es embraced the CBS sitcom *The Big Bang Theory*

live in an America where presidential debates have

*“We need to accept the reality of the fact that we live in an America where presidential debates have regressed into petty scuffles between the moderator and the President.”*

for 12 seasons. The show finally concluded in May of 2019, effectively putting the nail in the coffin of the laugh track situational comedy. We have lived through one too many pandemics to laugh for a wholesome, tonally con-

regressed into petty scuffles between the moderator and the President. It seems to me that *The Big Bang Theory* should not exist during this strange period. It simply is not good for the collective intelligence of our

*“We need to embrace television that asks important questions.”*

stant 30-minute episode that will not challenge any of our beliefs. There is something to the hour-long format of a suspenseful show with comedic relief that allows for a more cathartic viewing experience.

We need to accept the reality of the fact that we

country anymore. We, America, have matured.

Our taste needs to mature, and this shift seems to be beginning. We need to embrace television that asks important questions while exposing the funny parts of this absurd state in which we live.

*“In the past fifteen years we have seen a recession, footage of police brutality, and a pandemic.”*

again with *Space Force* on Netflix. For whatever reason, the show fell flat. So, what changed? Has Daniels lost his voice, or has our collective taste changed?

In the past fifteen years we have seen a recession, footage of police brutality, and a devastating pandemic. Are American audiences

at a time with no breaks for advertisements. It is worth noting that both *Community* and *Arrested Development* attempted comebacks in recent years to minimal success. But why is the sitcom format seemingly dead?

Rest assured, laughter is not dead, but it is

# Are Trinity and its Constituents Protecting the Nest?

JACK CARROLL '24  
STAFF WRITER

Given the recent surge in positive COVID-19 cases in the last two weeks, as well as the College's struggle to contain the spread of the virus at Trinity, it could be potential-

Nonetheless, last summer, Trinity joined many other institutions across the country in making the decision to reopen in the admirable attempt to provide its students with a quality education and a sense of community amidst

ty, it is evident that the failure of some to recognize the virus as a threat to those on and off campus has played a role in the conditions that have developed to date.

Amongst those who have not been impacted by the virus, it is often not regarded as a severe illness. Many unaffected people tend to view the COVID-19 pandemic as an abstract phenomenon that only threatens the elderly, residents of crowded cities, and patients in nursing homes. This is far from the truth.

To those who think that their luck makes them more knowledgeable than medical experts at Johns Hopkins and the Centers for Disease Control, it is important to take the time to do some reading on how the virus has impacted the lives of certain individuals and families across the country.

In September, a sophomore at Appalachian State University in North Carolina passed away after suffering from neurological complications caused by the coronavirus. Disturbingly enough, ASU is still open today and its COVID-19 dashboard dismally reported over 100 active daily cases at the time this piece was written.

In New York City, where the virus has lead to the death of over 33,000 residents (which, for a sense of proportion, is the equivalent to the disappearance of the entire student body of UConn amongst each of its schools and campuses), coronavirus-stricken corpses were wrapped in orange body bags and placed in the hallways of the Wyckoff Hospital in Brooklyn in the months following the initial outbreak of the pandemic.

Also, in the spring of this year, an emergency room doctor at a Manhattan hospital committed suicide after heroically working at the forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic in one of the most affected cities in the country.

These real-life and devastating accounts hardly scratch the surface of the endless suffering that comprises the ever-rising COVID-19 statistics. Speaking of which, at the time this article was written, the Johns Hopkins COVID-19 Dashboard reported over 8 million confirmed cases in the U.S. and over 39 million globally. It was recently reported in *The Wall Street Journal* that the U.S. reached the highest level of

daily cases since mid-August this past Wednesday. In the same article, it was also reported that the data from

empathy for my peers as we have all had our high school graduations and first semesters of college hindered

*“...a sophomore at Appalachian State University...passed away after suffering from neurological complications caused by the coronavirus. Disturbingly enough, ASU is still open today and its COVID-19 dashboard dismally reported over 100 active daily cases...”*

the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation estimates that an additional 180,000 deaths could occur in the U.S. by February. In the same article, it was also reported that the data from the University of Washing-

by such devastating and unprecedented conditions. Nonetheless, given the COVID-19 case count at Trinity and its continual ebb and flow, as well as the fact that there is not a vaccine that is going to be available in the near future, the

*“In New York City, where the virus has lead to the death of over 33,000 residents, coronavirus-stricken corpses were wrapped in orange body bags and placed in the hallways of the Wyckoff Hospital in Brooklyn for months following the initial outbreak of the pandemic.”*

ton's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation estimates that an additional 180,000 deaths could occur in the U.S. by February.

On Oct. 15, the *Hartford Courant* released data from Governor Ned Lamont that identified the city of Hartford as one of 11 coronavirus hotspots in Connecticut.

As far as students such as myself are concerned, it is evident that many are

question now becomes: How will we “protect the nest”? If the case count continues along an upwards trajectory, it could become increasingly possible that instruction moves online at some point during the school year.

As I continue my studies during the fall semester, I will reserve my ambivalent thoughts about the current state of affairs at Trinity. Most of all, I wish

*“Nonetheless, given the COVID-19 case count at Trinity, as well as the fact that there is not a vaccine that is going to be available in the near future, the question now becomes: How will we protect the nest?”*

eager to enjoy a rewarding college experience. Despite my frustrations with some of the behavior that has taken place, I have the utmost

a swift recovery for my on-campus peers who are infected with COVID-19, and a productive end to the semester for everyone.

*“...it is evident that the reopening plans--the consequences of which are not yet fully understood--have so far been ineffective in preventing the contraction and spread of the deadly virus that has already claimed the lives of more than 219,000 people in the United States alone.”*

ly harmful for students to remain on campus for the fall semester unless conditions change.

As the COVID-19 dashboard recently reported an ominous total of 56 active cases (down to 18 at the time of this writing), it is evident that the reopening plans--the consequences of which are not yet fully understood--have so far been ineffective in preventing the contraction and spread of the deadly virus that has already claimed the lives of more than 219,000 people in the United States alone.

Before going any further it would be unfair to assign the entire weight of responsibility for the rise in cases to the reopening plans. Any current student with a pair of eyes, a smartphone, and a

the extremely difficult circumstances. However, there have been some challenges up to this point.

The *Tripod* recently reported that infected students were sent to quarantine on the same floor as non-infected students in the Stowe and Clemens dormitories. It was also reported that this move was made without any prior warnings or notifications to residents of either of these dormitories. In addition, the “one student, one room” idea for student housing was apparently revised.

It is further worth highlighting that the previous decisions essentially reintroduce any of the averted health risks from the social-distancing and mask

*“To those who think that their luck makes them more knowledgeable than medical experts at Johns Hopkins and the Centers for Disease Control, it is important to take the time to do some reading on how the virus has impacted the lives of certain individuals...”*

tinge of common sense would be able to realize that the careless behavior of some students have not helped the College in its dying effort to “Protect the Nest.”

Indeed, if Trinity is a “nest,” then the nest has become littered and sickened with White Claws, discarded masks, and respiratory illness.

mandates outlined in the Community Contract--which is, in reality, a five page document which has proven to have as little influence on human behavior as a United Nations resolution calling for world peace.

Since some seem to have forgotten the implications and potential outcomes of the illness on the communi-



# FEATURES

## An Update on Climate Change: Yes, It Still Exists

BAILEY MCKEON '22  
FEATURES EDITOR

"The future of our world depends a lot on the choices we make right now," says Lily Wear '22.

An Environmental Science major, Wear quite literally means that the fate of planet Earth rests in our hands. "Climate change is real. It's proven by science and it's killing our planet."

With the United States being the second largest carbon producer in the world, we have an even greater impact on our planet than other countries with whom we share it. In an interview with the *Tripod*, Wear stressed that "what's happening right now is that carbon dioxide is being released into the atmosphere as we burn fossil fuels. This creates the greenhouse effect, which heats up the planet. And as the atmosphere heats up more than intended, things go awry."

Wear added that, "the Earth was not meant to become warmer in this way. It was not intended for one species to change it so drastically."

Wear decided to major in environmental science after becoming aware of the injustices taking place in the environment as the result of human intervention and tampering with the natural world.

When it came time to choose a major, Wear knew that environmental science would be the perfect choice in relation to her passions. She told the *Tripod*, "of course, I wanted to make an impact as an individual by doing little things to reduce my own carbon footprint, but I also wanted to study environmental science so that I can make an even bigger impact fighting for our planet," Wear said. "The most frustrating thing about it is that as much as climate change is real and proven by science, it has become a contentious political topic."

Wear's First Year Seminar course, "Oil and Water: The Science and Politics of Climate Change," dove into the intricacies of climate change and how it is discussed politically.

"It was interesting to look at politicians and see where they get their money from," Wear said. "{The class} found that the money is coming from a fossil fuel company or an organization that is a front for a fossil fuel company."

According to Wear, this is exactly why climate change has become such a political debate. "Fossil fuel industries don't want to lose money, so they pour money into politicians' pockets so that politicians will publicly deny climate change and endorse policies that do not prioritize our environment," Wear explained.

"So, climate change has been made into a political debate even though it's proven by science. Politicians have gone so far as to tell the American public that addressing climate change will ruin the job market, when really, more jobs would be created than would be lost if we switched to a renewable sector."

As a result of this, climate change has become an important issue to consider in the upcoming presidential election. "We've seen some environmental regulations being rolled back recently," Wear explained. "This is a pivotal moment in U.S. history and hopefully America will make the decision to move to a greener future."

Besides voting in the upcoming election, Wear advises the Trinity community to vote in state and local elections. "Some U.S. states are a part of The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) which is a cap and trade system for carbon emissions," Wear said.

"It's important to vote in state and local elections because the candidates who support this, if put in office, will limit the amount of carbon emissions a company is allowed to have," she told the *Tripod*.

Beyond voting, Wear hopes that we can each make an impact individually by just being mindful. "None of us are perfect but we should each try our best to live purposefully," Wear said. "Reduce, reuse, recycle, and do it in that order."

## International Students Facing Additional Barriers in COVID



The *Tripod* spoke with Suzanne Carpe '22 (right), who addressed her own experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic as an international student.

*"(Trinity)  
never once  
turned their  
backs on us."*

ALEX CHAMBERS '22  
STAFF WRITER

Going to school in a different country is a big decision in itself, but for international students, the coronavirus pandemic has amplified the stress of studying in the United States.

Suzanne Carpe '22 from El Salvador, Central America, always knew that she wanted to study abroad in order to do research and science— something that she was not able to do back home. On her decision to study at Trinity, she said, "I also wanted to study French and I knew a liberal arts college would allow me to pursue both [science and French] at the same time."

Suzanne first experienced the stress of the coronavirus pandemic last spring when Trinity initially informed students that they would be remote for two weeks following spring break. At this point, Suzanne recalls that "El Salvador started imposing a strict 30-day quarantine period in a designated quarantine facility for everyone who was entering the country." After looking into it, she found that the facilities

"didn't have electricity or internet, and some of them didn't even have the basic necessities like toilet paper and water." Returning home would have meant that she most likely would not have been able to finish the semester successfully.

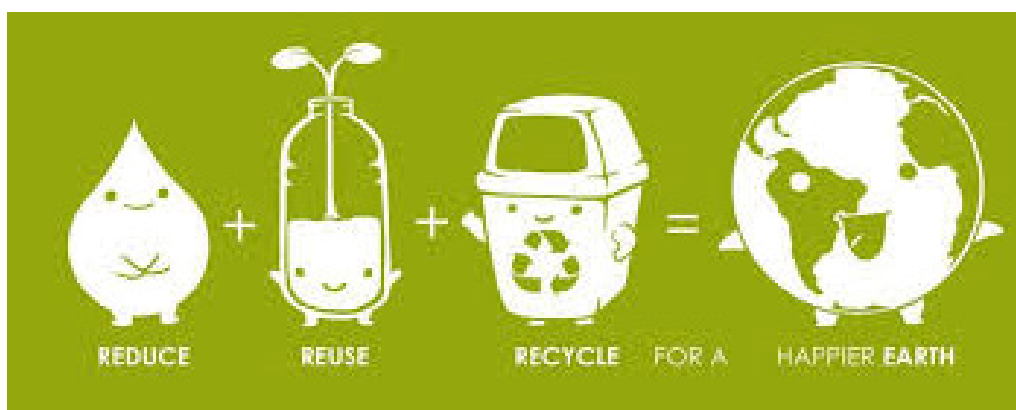
After reviewing her options with her parents, Suzanne came to the conclusion that staying at Trinity would be the best way to for her to complete the semester. To this point she said, "Trinity was kind enough to let me stay along with other fellow international students that faced the same uncertainties."

Suzanne commended Trinity's support through the struggles of this time: "Although we were encouraged to return home or to stay with relatives in the U.S., [Trinity] never once turned their back on us. They continued providing us with food from Mather and later in the summer when Mather closed, they were giving us biweekly stipends so that we had money to buy food."

Despite the support from the Trinity community, being away from home for so long has been challenging. Suzanne re-

marked that the most difficult part "is feeling powerless and not being able to help my family." Her father is a dentist, so his practice has been closed for much of the time since the outbreak of coronavirus. In addition, her mother works for the government, and because of political issues, she recently has not been getting paid for her work. Suzanne's grandmother had also passed away a few months ago, which added to the difficulty and stress of being so far away from home. Suzanne added, "I know my parents are struggling but they barely tell me about it... I love them and I would like to help, so in a way I am glad that I am here, so I don't feel like a burden to them. But at the same time, it feels like I can't even be there for them emotionally, which is really tough especially since we have always been really close."

The struggles of being an international student in the age of COVID-19 has given Suzanne perspective: "I would say that I am even more grateful now for all the opportunities that I have and everything I am able to accomplish."



@SUSTAINABILITY AT TRINITY

(Above) An infographic shared by Sustainability at Trinity.



## Professor Williamson Speaks with *Tripod* About CHER

OLIVIA PAPP '23  
FEATURES EDITOR

In addition to her position as Associate Professor of Political Science and Public Policy and Law, Abigail Williamson also serves as Director for The Center for Hartford Engagement and Research (CHER) at Trinity.

The Center for Hartford Engagement and Research is crucial to the connectivity between Trinity College and its surrounding community, Hartford. This program is relatively new, as it was founded in 2018. The purpose of this program is to strengthen the bond between the Hartford community and the College.

The *Tripod* spoke with Professor Williamson to learn more.

"The mission is to connect Hartford's diverse communities with students, staff, and faculty at Trinity through educational partnerships," she explained.

Williamson's role as director is to bring coherence to Trinity's engagement with Hartford by coordinating relationships between Center program leaders, community partners, and students/staff/faculty, and promoting shared information and resources. Williamson's role also entails managing the Center's program directors.

Trinity's diverse location, centered in the heart of an urban city, is a large draw for students looking for an institution to spend their next four years. The CHER program is important to students, as it allows students to participate in the happenings outside the parameters of Trinity's campus.

"Hartford has a rich history in terms of its cultural diversity and wealth of art and theatre opportunities," identified Williamson. "Compared to other small liberal arts colleges, Trinity students have such an extraordinary opportunity to engage in various ways, whether it's with the state capitol, non-profit partners, social entrepreneurs, or cultural and arts organizations," said Williamson.

Statistics show that students are eager to get involved with their urban community. According to a 2019 report by former

director Jack Dougherty and his colleagues in the department, during a traditional 4-year period at Trinity, 62% of the class of 2018 enrolled in at least one community learning course, involving an educational partnership with Hartford. A quarter of students completed two or more community learning classes. In 2017-2018, about a quarter of traditional undergraduates participated in co-curricular programs through the Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement or Trinfo.Café.

"We're pleased that so many students experience the benefits of Hartford's vibrant urban environment by participating in partnerships, and we hope these connections enrich their learning," said Williamson.

Over the years, there has been an assortment of projects across campus that have focused on strengthening the bond between Trinity and its urban setting. However, CHER is unique in that it serves as an umbrella to several different programs including the Trinfo.Café, the Public Humanities Collaborative, the HMT-CA Partnership, the Office of Community Service & Civic Engagement, the Liberal Arts Action Lab, and Community Learning.

Williamson reflected on this increasing collaboration, and said, "For this year, it's exciting to mention that Dean Cardenas is very interested in making sure that we are broadening this cooperation further. Four centers are cooperating on a new Urban Engaged Learning Initiative. These centers include CHER, the Center for Urban and Global Studies, the Caribbean Studies Center, and a new arts initiative. This is a start to broader cooperation amongst lots of groups that are connecting Hartford and Trinity."

Naturally, this is an initiative that is contingent upon human interaction. As the world has come to a screeching halt in the face of COVID-19, it has been difficult for students to participate in all of CHER's typical activities, something the Center is actively working on in 2020.

"We are incredibly cognizant of the fact that there are no easy decisions in the midst of this pandemic. We know the first priority of the administration is to protect everyone's health," explained Williamson. "For a center whose mission is off-campus engagement, it does create challenges for our work, just like it does for other programs. While we want to collaborate with our Hartford partners, we want to ensure we're operating in such a way that keeps the broader Hartford community safe."

During the pandemic, CHER has reopened Trinfo.Café to provide access to digital resources and training to neighborhood residents.

Trinfo's student leaders are also developing new curriculums to address pandemic challenges (such as: Parents Working from Home, Tips, and Resources for Children's Remote Learning).

Catering to coronavirus protocol at this time, the curricular aspects of the program have been changed to remote learning. Sixteen community learning classes are continuing with remote partnerships with Hartford organizations and residents.

"It's unfortunate we can't have students off campus right now learning from Hartford's diverse communities and fulfilling partner needs," commented Williamson. "One thing we have done in the absence of that is the online community volunteering database. Gradually we are populating that database so that there are more remote volunteering options. We hope students will sign up to volunteer, in order to connect with our community partners, especially in this time of greater isolation," Williamson said.

Students interested in participating in CHER initiatives in the coming months are encouraged to reach out to a member of the CHER Team at CHER.TrinColl.edu. Students can also sign up for remote volunteering by visiting the CHER team website and clicking on the volunteer section.

The Liberal Arts Action Lab is currently recruiting students for the Spring 2021 semester.

## Writing Center Adapts to Challenges Posed by COVID

KATIE CERULLE '22  
FEATURES EDITOR

Many students on the Trinity College campus rely on the Writing Center for help editing papers, developing a thesis, or just talking about the topic discover new and creative ideas. Usually, appointments take place in the English building and are a hands-on experience for students to have their compositions reviewed by a peer student trained to enhance and edit papers. This semester, however, the Writing Center had to take a new approach to their usual in-person meetings. Writing associate Summer Dow '22 discussed the new tactics that the Center has put into place to help students as much as possible.

The Writing Center has made many accommodations for maintaining COVID-19 safety guidelines. Summer told the *Tripod* that the Center will continue to host ETutoring appointments as well as through Zoom. ETutoring appointments with associates offer an asynchronous tutoring session—the associate will work on the paper and address the writer's concerns within a 24-hour window without direct communication. Online appointments via Zoom, in contrast, are synchronous, meaning that the Writing Center has added an online meeting room where students and peer tutors can work on a client's writing in real-time.

To address the concerns of the pandemic, Director of the Allen K. Smith Center for Writing and Rhetoric Professor Tennyson O'Donnell has made some additions to his mandatory

RHET-302 class for all new writing associates. New course material for writing associates helps tutors adapt to new technological and interpersonal skills. For students hoping to get the most out of their ETutoring or Zoom appointment, Summer explained that, "it is really important to explicitly state what you are struggling with in your assignment and where you want the most attention to be spent during your hour-long session." Summer advised students to take full advantage of thoroughly explaining their papers and concerns in the "comments" section of the Center's online sign-up process.

Despite some initial confusion from students, Summer is confident that online appointments can reach out to the greatest number of students in the most accessible way—particularly for students not currently on campus. Summer stated that, "having students schedule Writing Center appointments for their work is more important now than in any other semester." She emphasized that the Center is intended to be encouraging and productive for students.

Summer expressed her admiration for the Writing Center, commenting that it "has been a very large support system for me this semester and I am appreciative of the opportunity to give back to the campus community and support first-year students especially in their unique transition into college writing and college life." Students can make appointments online by visiting: <https://www.trincoll.edu/writing-center/writing-center/>.



TRINITY COLLEGE WRITING CENTER



# Arts & Entertainment

## The Definitive Ranking of Timothee Chalamet’s Feature Films That You Didn’t Know You Needed

KAT NAMON ’22  
MANAGING EDITOR

I, like many young women, have taken it upon myself to rank every film starring 24-year-old Oscar nominated actor Timothee Chalamet. Why, may you ask? Because there is way too much time in the day to choose not to do so. Inspiration for this task may very well have come from TikTok, but I’ll never explicitly admit to that. These rankings are based purely on Chalamet’s performance in his respective roles, not on the film as a whole. I would have included Woody Allen’s *A Rainy Day in New York*, in which Chalamet stars alongside leading ladies Selena Gomez and Elle Fanning, but after spending a considerable amount of time scouring the worldwide web, I could not find the film on any streaming service. Chalamet has since donated his salary from the film due to the controversy surrounding Woody Allen, who was accused of molesting his former partner’s adopted daughter. Chalamet directed his earnings to Time’s Up, The LGBT Center in New York City, and RAINN (Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network), and denounced

the director, and stated that he did “not want to profit” from the movie.

Starting with the obvious choice for number one, Chalamet’s performance in the 2017 adaptation of *Call Me By Your Name* jump-started his career, earned him an Oscar nomination, and aptly characterized him as one of Hollywood’s most promising young actors. The film itself, based on Andre Acimen’s 2009 novel, adheres to the text and tells the story of a summer romance between a 17-year-old Elio Perlman (Chalamet) and graduate student Oliver (Armie Hammer). Chalamet’s choice as an almost anonymous actor to take on a role that many foresaw, including Hammer, as an incredibly challenging task for an actor, further emphasizes that his performance in this film was deserving of all of the praise it received.

Number two was a toss-up because I could not decide if I should rank *Beautiful Boy* or *Call Me By Your Name* first, but I decided that the silver medal belonged with Chalamet’s work as Nic Sheff. This is not to say that he didn’t give a shockingly convincing performance as a heroin addict; he was as convincing as one could be.

I just view his decision to play Elio as a little riskier than his opportunity to work alongside Steve Carrell, and this factored into my ranking. If you weren’t bawling your eyes out in the corner when Carrell embraced Chalamet in the closing scene of the film, dare I say, you have no soul.

Coming in at number three, we have the Netflix feature from David Michod, *The King*. Chalamet takes on the role of King Henry V and proves himself capable of playing a role besides a slightly altered version of his own personality, which his other leading characters provide for audiences. Chalamet’s bowl cut may be the only questionable aspect of his performance in this film.

Chalamet blew middle-aged women and their daughters away with his performance in Greta Gerwig’s 2019 take on the classic novel by Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women*. This film lands at number four for his performances. He plays the part of Saoirse Ronan’s androgynous counterpart, serving as a window into her character Jo’s psyche. The two are attached at the hip for most of the movie, and the actor-actress duo is one that had many viewers fawning over for months

after the movie’s release. Chalamet is an expert in the art of playing the scorned-skinny boy, and he accomplishes one of his best renditions as Laurie.

Next, I must give his performance in the lesser-known film—that I could only find on YouTube—*Miss Stevens* some credit. Although the film as a whole lacked in both plot and meaning, the scene in which Chalamet and leading lady Lily Rabe belt out America’s 1975 classic tune “Sister Golden Hair” was pretty uplifting. Chalamet, yet again, plays the goofy underdog of a high school acting student, and he seems to be playing himself per usual.

Coming in at numbers six and seven are *Ladybird* and *Hot Summer Nights*. It may be controversial that I have ranked *Ladybird* so low, but I must remind you that this is based on Chalamet’s performance in the film, not the film itself. Chalamet’s character Kyle in *Ladybird* was almost entirely for comic relief and you were meant to hate him, or at least that is how I saw the utterly irritating adolescent boy. He pulled off an angsty-teen-aged asshole better than I anticipated from him, but his part in the film was so small that I didn’t think it

deserved much praise. As for *Hot Summer Nights*, this film was pretty bad. The plotline was flimsy as it tried much too hard to be a classic coming of age summer film, but I must say, Chalamet saved whatever was of value in this film because he truly is its only redeeming quality. He yet again plays a confused teen that gets wrapped up in the wrong crowd. Acting confused and bewildered is Chalamet’s specialty, so this worked well for him.

I definitely would have ranked these films differently if I had taken other factors into account besides Chalamet’s performance, but in reality, he played very similar roles in each of the films. Chalamet also has a role in Wes Anderson’s newest film *The French Dispatch*, which had its release date delayed until 2021. Since we all need more things to look forward to, you can happily add this long-awaited premiere to your list.

Chalamet Fever is real, so I may not be the most reliable source to rank this skinny legend’s performances, as I am much too biased, but regardless, I’m excited to see his next take on the confused adolescent male in science fiction form with his upcoming film *Dune*.

## Review of *I’m Thinking of Ending Things*: A Complex, Surreal Psycho-Horror Thrill

MACIEJ PRADZIAD ’23  
A&E EDITOR

Charlie Kaufman’s screen adaptation of Ian Reid’s *I’m Thinking of Ending Things* is a surreal psychological horror that explores the philosophical nature of identity, memory, and how they are shaped by our constant consumption of media. These complex themes are expertly woven throughout the entirety of the screenplay through a conversational framework between the main characters written by Kaufman and beautifully captured on camera by cinematographer Lukasz Zal. As creative as this film is in its surreality and absurdity, it isn’t a film that will appeal to

most audiences; however, if given the proper attention, analysis, and patience, *I’m Thinking of Ending Things* is a very rewarding viewing experience entirely different from any other.

*I’m Thinking of Ending Things* follows the story of Young Woman (Jessie Buckley) visiting her boyfriend Jake’s (Jesse Plemons) parent’s farmhouse on an extremely snowy drive. The trip slowly starts to become nightmarish as Young Woman’s anxiety about wanting to end things with Jake becomes so intense that it lends itself to the surreal.

Although the barebones structure of the film may seem incredibly simple, screenwriter and director Kaufman uses

this to his advantage as it prevents any unnecessary distractions from the complex philosophical puzzle he puts forth for the audience to solve. This is especially important as the puzzle itself is essentially impossible to solve in its entirety by design, which can be a drawback to audiences that want more answers than questions. However, I would say that the questions themselves make the screenplay more unique and riveting because the film reflects who you are at the particular moment in time you watch it. With every new viewing experience comes different answers to various questions that reflect our ever changing subjective realities and conscious-

ness, giving the film a universal quality very much needed in today’s climate.

The cinematography by Zal is stunningly uncanny to say the least. The fact that the majority of the film is set inside Jake’s car and never becomes repetitive or monotonous is a true testament to the genius displayed by Zal within the film. This becomes especially apparent with the juxtaposition between rigid camera movements and the surreal flow of action, characters, and set as it creates a world of controlled chaos set within the mind of Young Woman—or so we think. In addition, the lighting throughout the film is extremely melancholic, whether it be warm or cold, creating an

air of unnerving despair that both Young Woman and the audience can’t escape. This is further supported by the concentrated tension created through Zal’s framing as he places multiple actors into medium and close up shots with a 4:3 aspect ratio, creating an effect of suffocation and anxiety that can’t be escaped even if you tried looking elsewhere on the screen.

Charlie Kaufman’s *I’m Thinking of Ending Things*, available on Netflix, is a beautiful ode to the intricacies of the human mind, the complexities of self-identity, and the disorganized nature of memory worth experiencing to discover something new about yourself.



# Weekly Skylights: The *Tripod* Looks to the Clouds

JOEY CIFELLI '23  
A&E EDITOR



October 12, 2020

(Right) The windchimes toll midnight as you walk along the wet cobble street. Your breath puffs visibly in the weak glow of the streetlights that flicker like laughter. Light rain patters against your overcoat, making it slick. But you don't feel slick. You feel sick. They say, in the city, that the darkness isn't so much an absence of light as it is a predator of it. It's a strange saying, but you get what they mean. The alleyways are black as pitch and empty, yet the hairs on the back of your neck still stick up like porcupine quills. You can sense their presence, the building sized blocks of darkness waiting to snatch you off the street and snuff you out. If you can make it to the end of the street, well, you're almost home. It's not too far. To get there, however, you'll need to stay in the light. And just like that, the bulbs wink out. 9.2/10.



October 13, 2020



October 15, 2020

The color at the end of days,  
the color behind the curtain is  
blue.

A cat's eye marble of one,  
a feline cyclops twisted  
into itself, folded over itself,  
pressed against itself,  
a flat blue film made of film  
made of film.

Every end is the same,  
like furthest, like pinprick,  
the color at the end of days  
is blue.

8.2/10.

(Right) Big thanks to my Mom who took this gorgeous photo and let me put it here for you to see. Thanks Mom! Imagine some kind of giant lizard uprooted a volcano and shook out its contents onto a thick layer of wet clouds. It would look just like this. The lava slowly melts and mixes itself into the moist, cottony fibers, radiating and shifting light like blistering coals. Think of the warm smacking sound that would make. The fizzes and pops and gaseous ejections, eventually cooling into a sleepy, yawning night. Goodnight, everyone. 8.6/10.



October 16, 2020



# SPORTS

## Week Six of the NFL and Sunday Night Football: The Buccaneers vs. The Packers, The 49ers vs. The Rams

ANNA BAUER '23  
SPORTS EDITOR

Although COVID-19 has reared its ugly head in the NFL bubble as players tested positive, thankfully there were no new positive cases and week six games managed to go off without a hitch.

The New York Giants and the Atlanta Falcons got their first wins of the 2020 season; meanwhile, the New York Jets remain the only team in the league without a win after losing to the Miami Dolphins, 24-0.

On Sunday, Oct. 18 2020, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers played the Green Bay Packers and the Los Angeles Rams played the San Francisco 49ers.

The Packers entered this game undefeated with quarterback, Aaron Rodgers, who is in the race for 2020 NFL MVP, but they left it defeated with a quarterback not at his best. Perhaps it's just a negative pre-existing history with Tampa's stadium, but Rodgers definitely did not have his A-game this weekend.

It is important to note that though Rodgers left this stadium uninjured this time around, the same cannot be said for his teammates. David Bakhtiari, All-Pro left tackle, left during the second half of the game with a chest injury and was not seen to return; Rick Wagner replaced Bakhtiari for the Packers. Green Bay also finished the game without two of their defensive starters. Tyler Lancaster, defensive tackle, injured

his shoulder and Darnell Savage, safety, injured his quadriceps. Both injuries kept the players from returning to this game.

Now, Rodgers is seen as a potential MVP for a reason. He has thrown 156 passes this season all of which have been interception-free, but on his 157th, the ball was swiftly intercepted by the Buccaneers safety, Jamel Dean who ran the ball right into the Packers' endzone, putting the Buccaneers on the score board, 10-7. Then, only minutes after this, Rodgers threw another pass intended for wide receiver Davante Adams which was either deflected by Carlton Davis or tipped by Adams, ultimately landing in the hands of the Buccaneers safety, Mike Edwards. Edwards ran the ball down to the 2 and then Ronald Jones seamlessly drove the ball into the endzone on the next play, bringing the score 14-10, Buccaneers.

Up until those two throws which allowed the Buccaneers to take the lead, it seemed like the Packers were going to dominate as they were up in the first quarter after scoring a field goal and a touchdown (by Aaron Jones), leading 10-0. However, once the Buccaneers managed to take the lead, the Packers just could not seem to get it back as Rodgers was blitzed 17 times and pressured 12 by the strong Buccaneer defense. One thing is for sure, though Rodgers was having an uncharacteristically bad day, the

Buccaneers' defense sure was not: they came to win.

Just for all the Tom Brady fans out there, he threw two touchdowns throughout the game; one of which was caught by Rob Gronkowski, hinting that these two are getting back in the groove of their dynamic duo which was moved from New England to Tampa Bay.

Now, the Packers were not the only ones on Sunday to be overtaken, the Los Angeles Rams who were 4-1 were defeated by the San Francisco 49ers who were 2-3.

Though the 49ers start this season was not as hot as expected, their first possession of the game revealed that both the Niners and their quarterback, Jimmy Garoppolo, intended this game to be different. Garoppolo showed this same mentality throughout the rest of the game as he threw three touchdowns and no interceptions.

Deebo Samuel ran into the endzone with just under 12 minutes left of the first quarter clock, placing the 49ers in the lead, 7-0. No one else scored in the remaining time of the first quarter, but again, the 49ers managed to score early in the next period. This happened when Garoppolo threw to George Kittle who ran the ball over 30 yards into the endzone with the Rams defense nowhere to be found, putting the 49ers further ahead, 14-0.

The Rams made it on the score board for the first time this game when Jared Goff, their quarterback, passed it to Robert Woods who caught the ball in the endzone. Samuel Sloman was kicking for the additional point, but the goal was no good, making the score 14-6.

Just over two minutes left in the second

quarter and Garoppolo passed to Brandon Aiyuk who scored the 49ers' third touchdown of the night, bringing the score to 21-6.

In the second half, the 49ers only scored a field goal, while the Rams scored a field goal and touchdown. However, San Francisco managed to keep the lead the whole game through, winning their third game of the season, 24-16.

The 49ers have now won as many games as they have lost, 3-3, so hopefully winning against one of their division foes will give this team the confidence it needs to beat the Seattle Seahawks next week, followed by the Green Bay Packers, the New Orleans Saints, and then the Los Angeles Rams once again.

Week seven of this NFL season will begin this Thursday when the New York Giants play the Philadelphia Eagles.



BAYNEWS9.COM

The Buccaneers take on the Packers as Brady throws a pass in a recent game.

## Pro Bowl Cancelled For The First Time Since 1949

ANNA BAUER '23  
SPORTS EDITOR

This past Wednesday, the NFL announced that for the first time in over 70 years, the 2021 Pro Bowl, where the league's best play each other, will be cancelled because of COVID-19. The NFL has decided to focus their efforts on successfully completing the regular season and post-season throughout the pandemic.

As of right now, COVID-19 has caused 12 NFL games to be postponed and rescheduled, and 11 teams have been directly

impacted. Understandably, the NFL did not want to risk mixing players from various teams as it could derail the Super Bowl and, for sure, no one wants that.

Las Vegas was supposed to host the 2021 Pro Bowl at Allegiant Stadium; however, given the cancellation, the league decided they will now host the 2022 Pro Bowl instead.

Despite not being able to actually have the Pro Bowl, the NFL is still committed to selecting teams. As per usual, fans, coaches, and the players themselves will be able to vote for which play-

ers they want representing their conference as the NFC's best would usually play the AFC's best. Voting will begin in mid-November and the official rosters will be revealed in December.

Though the physical football game cannot be played, the league is striving to create various engaging activities in replacement.

The pandemic has derailed a lot. While it is changing the way many things are done, it is also, unfortunately, causing many things to be cancelled too—the NFL Pro Bowl is sadly no exception. As of late, it is the most recent major NFL event to

be altered or cancelled. of the NFL season will go With any luck, the rest off without another hitch.



NEWSWEEK.COM

The 2019 NFL Pro Bowl AFC Champions. The Pro Bowl will not be occurring this year because of the COVID pandemic.



## This Week in Sports At Trincoll...

# The Wage Gap on the Court: The WNBA v. NBA

MATEO VAZQUEZ '21  
SPORTS EDITOR

Unequal pay on the basis of gender has been, and continues to be, an issue that stretches across all walks of life. The recent outcomes of the NBA championship bring to light a blatant instance of this wage gap. As many know, LeBron James is in his 17th season of playing professional basketball. He also just won his fourth NBA title in a 4-2 win over the Miami Heat. On the other side of the court is Sue Bird. She has been a player in the WNBA for seventeen seasons and also recently clinched her 4th Title against the Las Vegas Aces. Despite the many similarities and integral roles that each play on their respective teams, they face astronomical disparities in their pay. In comparing just the 2020 season alone it is quite evident that something must change in the way female athletes are paid. This season, Sue Bird earned a salary of \$215,000 while LeBron James pulled in \$37.44 million.

However, it is important to note that these numbers fail to include their addition-

al bonuses earned for winning their respective fourth titles in the NBA. After succeeding in the finals, LeBron took home over \$35,644 dollars more than Sue Bird, who only received \$11,356 as her bonus pay. Bird has had an amazing career as an athlete, earning a spot on the United States international team as a four time gold winning Olympic athlete. These two athletes have almost the exact same careers and accomplishments, seasons, and wins yet despite all of these similarities, they are paid completely differently. This gap in pay is quite startling after examining their almost identical careers. The general explanation for this difference, among fans, is that the NBA garners more attention and media focus and thus their players “deserve” more compensation. However, the WNBA has been steadily growing in popularity over the past few years, thus demonstrating that there has been a shift in attention towards both leagues.

Consequently, this increases the need for change in the current

wage gap as players on women’s teams are owed compensation for this increase in attention to the network.

With social media brings more awareness to fans about the issues that are prevalent in the league. Some changes are already being implemented, but nothing will change overnight as there still exists much work to be done within both leagues. Just this past February, the league was able to sign a collective bargaining agreement with players that allows for better pregnancy benefits, better lodging and travel, expanded player improvements beyond the NBA (undergraduate education funding), more marketing of the league itself, and, finally, an increase in all player salaries. This change is both long overdue and also still very far from over. The improvements are, in actuality, little changes that should have been implemented in the league for a long time.

Part of this issue is that, for many years, the league has justified not filling this gap by arguing that it would not be as profitable as despised. But even this has changed as, across the board, the league has increased their overall

earnings and now has to demonstrate that this increase can, in turn, benefit the players. The good news is that the WNBA, along with its NBA cohort, is changing the language from stating that the league has not been profitable to alluding to the league’s profits and changes

that will occur from these changes. What we have to look forward to is hopefully more increases to benefits and overall wage increases for players, but there still remains a plethora of effort that needs to occur in order for these changes to be fully implemented on the court.



ARCHYWORLDSLY.COM

A comparison of Sue Bird and LeBron James’ salaries reveal significant disparities on the basis of gender.

# Dodgers Beat the Braves to Advance to World Series

MATEO VAZQUEZ '21  
SPORTS EDITOR

Despite facing an altered season, one which was shortened due to the coronavirus pandemic, Major League Baseball has finally arrived at its World Series, featuring the Los Angeles Dodgers against the Tampa Bay Rays. Both teams had their respective series tied up at (3-3) before finally breaking through in the last round to move onto the series. A particularly interesting team for this series is the Tampa Bay Rays. The Rays suffered a 7-4 loss against the former series champs, the Houston Astros, on Friday night but proceeded to rally on Saturday, subsequently beating the Astros 4-2. This is the second time in franchise history that Tampa has ever made it to the series. In 2008, the team lost their chance at the title to the Philadelphia Phillies, and they have yet to return to the champion-

ship. If Tampa Bay is able to beat the Dodgers, it will not only be a momentous event for the franchise, but also a massive accomplishment in their journey to achieve their first World Series win.

The Dodgers in particular had quite a comeback in the national league as they were down by two games to the Atlanta Braves earlier on in the season. They made a slight comeback, that looked to be promising during Game Three. However, in Game Four, Atlanta won again, dropping a 10-2 victory on the Dodgers. It appeared as if the Dodgers’ hopes at the series were all but over. While many counted them out as contestants for the series, from Game Five onwards the team made a push and eventually, after Game Six, tied up the league for (3-3). Following this, fans were treated to a real heater of a game on Sunday night as

the victor would be advancing into the World Series.

While Atlanta was still favored to win Sunday night’s game, the Dodgers were able to steal a quick victory at 4-3. Per usual, the Braves started off strong early in the game, putting two runs up on the scoreboard in just the first two innings. However, the Dodgers responded with two runs in the third inning and pre-

vented the Braves from putting any more points on the board. Atlanta still bounced back in the fourth inning with a one-run lead on the Dodgers and the game remained stagnant until the sixth inning, when they tied up the game and began to keep the Braves shutout from putting any more runs on the board.

In the seventh inning,

Cody Bellinger stepped up to the plate for the Dodgers and belted a solo home run (his third for the postseason) which put the team in the lead for a trip to the World Series.

With two innings to go, the Dodgers locked down the game on the defensive end, held out, and were able to secure their spot in the World Series this year.



KTTLA.COM

The LA Dodgers performed to the best of their ability and advance to the World Series after beating the Atlanta Braves.